

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 179558 TOSEC 080197

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 179558 ACTION NATO USNMR SHAPE
CINCLANT USCINCEUR USLOSACLANT ALL NATO CAPITALS 30 JUL

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 179558

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: EXERCISE AUTUMN FORGE

REF: USNATO 3954

1. WE ENDORSE MISSION PROPOSAL TO CONVOKE DPC MEETING TO
DISCUSS AUTUMN FORGE. WE BELIEVE DISCUSSION SHOULD FOCUS
ON CONCEPT AS A WHOLE, ON ITS RELATIONSHIP TO POSSIBLE
CSCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT, AND GENERAL
QUESTION OF PUBLICITY.

2. WE AGREE WITH AUTUMN FORGE CONCEPT, WHICH WOULD
INCORPORATE NATIONAL, MULTINATIONAL, AND NATO EXERCISES IN
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER PERIOD UNDER A COMMON PRE-HOSTILITIES
SCENARIO TO EMPHASIZE ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY AND CAPABILITIES.
EMPHASIS ON NATO MULTILATERAL EXERCISES RATHER THAN
PURELY NATIONAL EXERCISES SHOULD ALSO HELP TO IDENTIFY

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR RATIONALIZATION EFFORT IN NATO. AN

ACTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY WOULD SUPPORT ABOVE OBJECTIVES. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S MEMORANDUM TO SYG LUNS OF APRIL 16 (CMCM-50-75) INDICATED THAT THIS EXERCISE MAY POSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR CERTAIN ALLIES, NOTING THAT QTE CERTAIN NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POLITICAL

REACTION IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF AN ACTIVE PRESS POLICY WHICH MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED AS NATO INNER QTE SABRE RATTLING INNER QTE; OTHERS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON NATIONAL DOMESTIC POLICIES. AS A DISPLAY OF NATO SOLIDARITY, THE EXERCISE COULD ONLY RECEIVE PUBLIC NOTICE THROUGH WIDE PUBLICITY; CONVERSALY, HOWEVER, THE POTENTIAL FOR AN ADVERSE REACTION INDICATING NATIONAL DISAGREEMENTS IS OBVIOUS. UNQTE. WE WOULD EXPECT DPC DISCUSSIONS TO ELICIT VIEWS OF ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES ON CONCEPT AS A WHOLE, AS WELL AS ON POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

3. SINCE AUTUMN FORGE, IF ALLIES AGREE TO IT, WILL BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED AS A VERY LARGE UMBRELLA EXERCISE, AND WILL CONTAIN INDIVIDUAL MANEUVERS INVOLVING MORE THAN 25,000 NORCES, WE BELIEVE THAT CSCE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES SPECIFYING PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS APPLICABLE TO AUTUMN FORGE, AND THAT AUTUMN FORGE SHOULD THUS BE PRE-ANNOUNCED TO CSCE PARTICIPANTS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ARGUE AGAINST PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON TECHNICAL OR LEGALISTIC GROUNDS, AND THAT FAILURE TO PRE-ANNOUNCE AUTUMN FORGE WOULD RUN RISK OF LATER CHARGES OF BAD FAITH AGAINST THE ALLIES. WE AGREE WITH MISSION'S SUGGESTION (REFTEL) TO CHANGE NAME OF AUTUMN FORGE 75 TO QTE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISES UNQTE. THIS NAME CHANGE COULD FURTHER ADD TO CASE THAT ALLIES WERE EXCEEDING RATHER THAN EVADING CSCE OBLIGATIONS BY ANNOUNCING AUTUMN FORGE.)

4. ACCORDINGLY, AT DPC JULY 31, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT WHILE ALLIES CONSIDER IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTUMN FORGE, SACEUR BE ASKED TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON CONTENTS OF PRIOR
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ANNOUNCEMENT, BEARING IN MIND PROVISIONS OF CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT. ALLIES COULD THEN REVIEW PROPOSED CONTENTS, AND DETERMINE MODALITIES FOR NOTIFICATION, INCLUDING QUESTION OF WHICH ALLIES WOULD NOTIFY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES/MANEUVERS, SUCH AS REFORGER, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MORE DETAILED ANNOUNCEMENT, WHEN SPECIFIED BY PROVISIONS OF CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT. SINCE FIRST EXERCISE UNDER AUTUMN FORGE WOULD BEGIN IN

FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, WE BELIEVE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED CONTENTS OF NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE TREATED AS A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE PRIORITY.

5. WE ALSO NOTE THAT AUTUMN FORGE WOULD INCORPORATE EXERCISES INVOLVING FRENCH, INCLUDING REFORGER AND COLD FIRE. WE BELIEVE FRENCH VIEWS ON EXERCISE SHOULD BE

SOUGHT, AND TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN ANY DECISION REACHED BY ALLIES IN DPC FRAMEWORK. WE LEAVE TO MISSION HOW TO DEVELOP CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH ON THIS SUBJECT, PERHAPS THROUGH PANSA, OR WITH OTHER ALLIES, OR DIRECTLY. FRENCH VIEWS SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT -- PERHAPS BY SACEUR -- ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP OF AUTUMN FORGE TO CSCE PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT PROVISIONS, BEARING IN MIND THAT CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT STIPULATES THAT ALL NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN QTE MAJOR MANEUVERS UNQTE SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED.

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